The Hon.ble Frederic North.

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Maurice, Prince of Orange.

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A True Report of all the proceedinges of GRAVE MAVRIS before the Towne of Bercke:

With all the accidentes that happened in the beſiedge of the ſame, ſince the. 12. day of Iune laſt. 1601. and laſtly, the yeelding vp of the Towne on the 30. of July following, with the conditions agreed vpon betweene his Excellencie and the Gouernour of the Towne.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

A true Report of all the proceedings of GRAVE MAVRIS before the Towne of *Bercke*, and of all such matters as happened all the time of the besiedging thereof.

After that the Honorable Lords, the States, togither with his Excellencie Graue Mauris, had waighed, and well considered of the great hurt rysing by ỳ common Enemie, and possession of the Towne of Bercke, whereby he suppressed, and kept vnder contribution, the Countries & Townes of Ouer Yssel and Freesland; haue by generall Counsell & good aduice, thought it fit, againe to besiedge the same: which afterward his Excellencie accomplyshed, hauing first sent vp the Riuer of Ryne all thinges needfull for so great an enterprize, as Victualles, Munition, and Marriners: and the .xii. day of June. 1601. with. 150. Ancients of Foot-men, and. 33. Cornets of Horse, came before the Towne, and presently with warlike Pinnasses rowing beyond the Towne against the streame, presently surprised their adioyning places, by which their ayde might passe both aboue and beneath the Towne, besieging the Towne both by Water and by Land: not without the great admiration, and spightfull tauntes and mockes of the Gouernour of

the ſayd Towne, called Don Lowes Fernandis Africano, who thought it a meere mockerie to vndertake any enterpize againſt a Towne furniſhed with ſo ſtrong a Garriſon as this: namely with. 500. Italians, 400. Spaniards, 700. Burgundians, 1300. Dutchmen, 200. Marriners, 50. Horſe-men, All olde Souldiers, and good men of Warre: ſo that this attempt ſeemed to many perſons (in regard of the ſtrength and plentifull Garriſon) to be moſt ſtrange. But his Excellencie with incredible induſtrie, care, and trauell, had in ſhort time ſo compaſſed and entrenched it, that very hard it had bin for a good ſwimmer to haue eſcaped out with his life.

His Excellencie lay on the Weſt South-weſt ſide of the Towne, very ſtrongly intrenched. The Earle Ernſt of Naſſaw with the Earle of Zolmes on the Eaſt, or further ſyde. The Lord of Giſtelles had his quarter in the middeſt betweene both. On the South-weſt ſyde (in moſt places) were made double Trenches: and without the Campe, was a Ditch digged round about of xx. foote broad full of water, with a Perapet hyeſt high: and round about the ſame many Fortes, anſwering one the other, furniſhed with Ordenance well appoynted, with proviſion of Bagges filled with Muſket ſhotte and ſquare ſhotte. The worke (for ſuch as haue not ſeene it) was wonderfull, and hardly to be beleeued: in ſo much that if the Archduke ſhould haue come with intent to haue rayſed the Siedge, he ſhould haue found it a very hard enterpriſe: for the Campe was fortefyed round about with Palliſados, thruſt thorow with ſharpe Pyons. Preſently the Ryne vpwardes, and the Roer, were freed by the Shippes lying without: and a Shippe of the Maes, with an other Upland Ship, were by ours taken, which lay there by the appoyntment of the Commiſſioners of Bercke, furniſhed with all kind of neceſſaries, and were freed.

In the meane while, thoſe of the Towne were not idle, but fetched in what they could from the quarter, vnder the defence of their Ships lying on ground with their Maſtes cut downe.

They

They had also sunke a Shippe of Warre, and a great long Boate, often issuing out of the Towne, but to small effect, vntill such time that his Excellencie began first to vndermine: at what time, the first & principallest Skirmidge was most furious, with great supplyes, alwayes bringing. 500. fresh Men at three seuerall times.

Afterwardes on the. 18. day of June our people tooke the Middle quarter: from whence the Enemie fled, not making any resistance.

The. 20. day of June (at what time the French men had the Watch) they sallyed out of the Towne, both sides fighting very brauely the space of an howre, and supplyed with fresh Souldiers: In this fight Monsieur de Castellon, Commaunder of the French, was shot through the knee, yet without any danger of his life: But in the end, the Enemie was forced to retyer not without great hurt, for the Feelde which they passed, was plentifully watered with their blood, leauing some of their dead Carkasses behind them, though they carryed some away: neither was this fight free from losse on our side.

Afterwardes we vnderstood, in this skirmidge the Gouernour of Bercke, Don Lowis Ferdinandus Africano, standing in the Round house to behold the fight, was shotte through his cheeke, the shot smiting out his teeth, and wounding his tongue. But whether this was done by any of his owne people or ours, it is vnknowne: but howsoeuer, he was not able to commaunde or giue order in the affayres, but by writing. This man is a very great friend of the Admirant of Arragon, prisoner with the States, who had brought vp the sayd Gouernour from his youth, and made great account of him. The sayd Admirant (vnderstanding of some exployt in hand before his Excellencie departed towards Bercke, but not knowing for what place it was ment) sayd, Would God that his Excellencie would go before the Towne of Bercke with his forces. Now when it was reported afterwards to the Admirant, that God had heard his prayer, for his Excellencie lay now with

his Campe before Bercke, his cullour altered: and ſtarting at the report, he became very pale in his face.

The Gouernment of the Towne was afterwardes committed into the handes of Boeth Bergeen Captaine of the Horſe, with an Italian for his coaiutor.

The. 21. of July were two Souldiers taken neare vnto Weſell, which had ſwomme out of the Towne: who ſpying foure Horſemen a farre off, one of them ſhunned the way: which being perceiued by one of the Horſemen, rode ſtraight towardes them: Hee which held his way, was called Lambert de Wit, borne in Tiel, beeing a man of ſuch ſtrength, that he was able to reare vp a Millſtone of fifteene hundred waight.

This Lambert oppoſed himſelfe againſt the Horſeman, and pulled him from his Horſe with mame ſtrength: but (the other Horſemen ſetting their Hargelets to his breſt) hee yeelded him ſelfe priſoner, and preſently both were brought into the Campe, and deliuered to his Excellencie: who very liberally rewarded the ſayd Horſemen for their good ſeruice. There were Letters found about theſe Priſoners of contrary and diuers tenure, written by ſundry Captaines, complayning on the Gouernour to haue been very negligent in prouiding the Towne of ſome neceſſaries. Alſo, great fault was founde with the Commiſſioners which lay in Cullen, that had not executed the truſt committed to them, and ſuch like: but the concluſion was, that his Highnes muſt within. xiiii. dayes raiſe the Siedge, otherwiſe their extremitie would be very great.

Theſe two Souldiers were hanged within ſight of the Towne the. xxiii. day of June: but this Lambert de Wit aforeſayd, dyed very vngodly: for being exhorted by the Preacher to ſay the Lordes prayer, to turne him ſelfe vnto God, to aſke forgiuenelle for his ſinnes, and confeſſe openly his beliefe: anſwered, that he beleeued his Credit was better in all the Tauerns in Bercke, then in that place: and ſo they

were

were both hanged, because they had before time serued the States.

The Water course for the Milles of the Towne stretching from the Riuer of Niepe was stopped, so that the Milles could not grinde.

The. 24. day of June towardes the euening, the Enemies (being neare a thousand men strong) issued out of the Towne vpon the Quarter of the Earles Ernst and of Solmes, who receiued them with such currage, that they were forced to returne from whence they came: Some. 60. persons were slaine on both sides: but in the chasing of them into the Towne, many of them were slaine.

There were placed on the Walles seuen or eight Ancients, but the. xxvi. day about noone time, they were sodainely taken downe, which caused our Campe to imagine that there was some mutenie or discention among the Souldiers in the Towne: notwithstanding the same after noone they issued out, but to small purpose.

The. 26. 27. and. 28. dayes of June we were busied in vndermyning, so that we were approched ryght vnder their Counter-scarfe: wherevpon, the Enemie sallied out of the Towne the. 28. day with a thousand Souldiers, and with great furie entred one of our Trenches: where a very stout fight was made for the space of halfe an houre: but ours being seconded with fresh supply, the Enemie was forced to returne: and in our iudgementes there were some. 50. of them slayne and hurt, so that they got little by vs: for our Souldiers stoode as a Bulwarke, bestowing their Bullets without feare among the thickest of the enemies.

At this time, the young Prince and Earle Lodwicke, with diuers other Lordes and Nobles, were making good cheare with the Countesse of Brooke, who had inuited them. And at

this inſtant all our Fortes were finiſhed, with their Fall-bridges, as well within the Trenches as without.

The. 29. day of June were other Mynes made on the farther ende of the Towne. It is imagined, that the ſame being finiſhed, the Mynes ſhalbe blowne vp. The ſame day the Lord of Norththumberland was very honorably receiued into his Excellencies Quarter, his Excellencie imbraceing him, haueing long talke and conference togither. Now and then they beſtow a great Bullet out of the Towne: and without al doubt are well prouided of good Cannoniers, ſo that if they were as well furniſhed with Powder and munition, they would greatly endomage our Campe: for they haue ſlayne ſundry of ours, eſpecially Horſemen, as they rode in troopes to the helpe of thoſe that were in ſkirmidge with the Enemie.

The. 30. day of June, in the night time the Enemie ſallied out of the Towne, and comming to one of our Trenches, found our men in good order: but they were preſently forced to retyer.

In this Sallie, many Boyes and Women were come out of the Gates to get ſome Forage, which lay neere the walles, but all of them could not get in againe: among whom, there was a woman found vnder the wal, by one of our Sentenels, and brought before his Excellencie, who declared that there was little Salt, and ſmal ſtore of Bread-corne in the Towne: but what prouiſion there was of Munition, ſhe could not report: but that they had killed all their Cattle for want of Fodder, and for want of Salt, could not keepe the ſame. Alſo, that there had bin ſlaine in the Towne. 300. Men, and 400. wounded ſince the time of this ſiedge, which cauſed great ſorrow in the Towne.

Afterwardes we vnderſtood farther, (more then this Woman could make report of.) that Lambert Paſman Admorall and chiefe Captaine of the Shippes of the Ryne, with two other Captaines, and many Souldiers, were ſlayne in this laſt Skirmidge.

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The same night was a boy seene swimming out of the towne, who was followed with boates, horsemen, and footemen: but as yet we haue not hard, whether he was taken or not. This night were three peeces of Artillary planted higher then the wales of the towne, to hinder the enimy from issuing out of the gates. The enimy beganne to raise a mount in their counterskarse. It is thought they meane to make a battery, but that will quickly be taken from them: without our camp are new workes begone. The last of June it was thought that the Towne should be summoned: but it seemed not requisite. We are now busied with the Bridge which lyeth beyond the towne, ouer the Rine, with purpose to bring the same thence, and to lay it beneath. This afternoone the young Prince and Earle Lodwick, with a troope of Horsemen rode to Alpen, but in the euening they returned to their quarters. The same afternoone, the enemyes issued out of the towne, but were driuen in againe, leauing ten or twelue dead men behinde them. It seemeth that they haue great hope of rescue, for they shew themselues very stoute & proud, but in all mens iudgements their aide stayeth too long, whereby our forces haue good leysure, and time to intrench and assure themselues from all forces that might impeach them behinde: and our Trenches in sundry places are made so neere their Counterscarffes, that we are in good hope with Gods helpe, shortly to driue them out of the same. On the forte of the middle quarter are placed two double Cannons, and two Demie Cannons, wherewith, it is thought that great hurt is done to the towne.

The first daye of July were more Ordinance planted: about noone it seemed that the enemy had an intent to issue out of the towne, but perceiuing preparation made ready to welcome them, (except themselues within) which was most for their ease. This daye were certaine troopes of the enemy, both horsemen and footemen at Orsey, who met with some of our Horsemen that were ranging to seeke forrage,

whom they toke and carryed to Gelder. This happened oftentimes ſince the firſt beſiedging of Berke, vnto our Horſemen which ranged broade and wide about the Countrey to ſeeke forrage, for they of Gelder and Sralen haue more endamaged vs in the time of this ſiedge, then the towne of Berke. This day his Excellencie, the young Prince, and many other Lords and Gentlemen, rode round about to view the workes, which were now all very neere finiſhed.

The ſecond day of July in the night time, were ſome 20. Peeces of Ordinance planted: but not being ſufficiently defended: they of the towne with their great Shot diſplaced ſome of them, not without the death of ſome of our people, for they were too haſtie, not regarding his Excellencies counſell, whereby they ſuffered great damage. Notwithſtanding ſundry of the Peeces which laye lowe, were many times luſtily diſcharged, which made good lanterne lights of the houſen tops. The ſame night a man of the towne ſtale out, reporting that the enemyes in the towne of Berke were at variance among themſelues, ſome of them being deſperate, and doubting of any ayde, reſolued like valiant ſouldiers generally to iſſue out of the towne, and with force to make waye thorowe the Campe, ſaying: that they greatly wondred that his Excellencie did not ſummon the towne.

The third day of July we played vpon the towne with twenty peeces of Artillerie, but the other ten were not vſed. Newes was brought from Maſtricht, that the Enemie aſſembled forces to raiſe the ſiege, but this report continued not.

This morning the enemie with a ſhot brake the mouthe of one of our Cannons, and in the vppermoſt batterie is an other Cannon hauing the whole mouthe likewiſe ſhotte of and broken.

They of the towne haue taken downe the tyles and tops of ſome of their houſen. About eight of the clock, the enemie ſal-

ied

sallyed out of the towne, but was speedily driuen back again. At nine of the clock, the enemie shewed himselfe againe, but to small effect. And about three of the cloche in the afternoone they issued againe vpon the lower part of the Campe, but they continued not long, some twentie of their people being slaine and hurt. This day in the afternoone, his Excellencie, the young Prince, Earle William, and the company of Monsieur Genr, rode abroade out of the Campe towards Bosse, to take view of the wayes and passages.

In some places we are approached so neere the enemies Counterscarffe with our trenches, that we may heare them speake, and can with two Pikes reach each other, without the Trenches.

The fourth daye of July, all the night and morning we shot nightely with our Cannons: yet this morning the enemy made no sallie, but three or foure dead bodyes were found betweene the enemies trenches and ours, among which one was apparralled in red Veluet, with a Scarffe of red silke wrought with goulde, and a Fringe thereon a hand broade, in his hand was a shorte peece or Carrabine, on his side hung a Gilded Rapier and a Dagger suteable to the same: they were in the night fetcht in by some of our Souldiers, and stripped: some said this was the Valye of Coeuerdens condemned sonne.

At ten of the clock they of the towne issued out, but they staied not long before they were driuen backe againe: at afternoone about foure of the clock, they sallyed againe out of the towne towardes the innerside, nere to the quarter of Earle Erult, the fight continued more then halfe an howre, but were repulsed with shame and losse, and in their returne one of the enemies was taken prisoner, but his confession is as yet vnknowne.

This day we discharged many Cannon shot, yet we play not with all our Ordinance, for all are not as yet mounted which we minde to vse against the towne.

It was ſayde that 400. men lay nére Aerſon, to aſſemble more forces to rayſe the ſiege, but we heare no more ſpéeches thereof, all the paſſages of our Campe are made with Gates.

The fifth day of July in the night, the Towne made twiſe ſignes by fier, ſignifying their diſtreſſe, which hetherto they had not done before: and this night we wrought very harde with ſome 600 men, and approached nérer to ſome places of the Walles, with hope the nert day at afternone to come yet néerer. In the morning at fyre of the clocke, the enemie made an other ſallie out of the towne, but was quickly forced to retyre. At ten of the clocke, the enemie iſſued againe vpon vs by the lower part of the towne, the fight continued halfe an howre, but was driuen in againe with great force and ſhame. This day our Horſemen rode before the towne of Gelder, and toke two of the enemies priſoners, who affirmed to their beſt knowledge, that the Archduke Albertus was comming with fiftéene thouſand men to rayſe the ſiege.

The fifth daye of July in the night time, the towne of Berke made ſignes of fire againe ſundry times. The ſame day the enemie was nére vnto Orſay, whereof we hauing intelligence in the Campe, certaine Horſemen were ſent out to follow them, but they eſcaped by flight. This morning his Excellencie, the young Prince, and Earle Lodowick tooke view of the vppermoſt quarter. We toke a Boye that was come out of the towne to get Graſſe and Haye, who reported that euery daye was diſtributed halfe a pound of bread to euery man, but of the ſtore of Powder and Shot he could not ſay any thing, but ſayde that the Spaniards and Italians were twiſe at variance with the Dutch Souldyers, and that there were ſlaine and hurt ſince this ſiege aboue 800. men. This daye we began to place a Bridge on the Ryne beneath the towne, ſome thought that the vpper Bridge ſhould be taken away, although that thereon were

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mounted aboue twentie péces of Artylierie, which haue hetherto doone little seruice. This daye in the night we made two allaroms in our Trenches, as if we had meant to take in their Counterscarffes, but nothing was done.

These Sallies and feates of warre continued daylye on both sides, vntill his Excellencie hauing finisht all his works, and put the enemy from his Counterscarffes and other defences without the towne, and had also vnderminded in three seuerall places, the principall and chéefest Bulwarkes.

The twenty and eight daye of July, he sent a Trumpet to sommon the towne, whereupon they of the towne, not knowing of anye ayde to bee prepared for them, and wanting meanes of surgendry to cure their wounded men: after much conference, (hostages were giuen on both sides in the time of their parle) for assurance.

On the thirty day of July it was agréed, that the towne should be deliuered vnto his Excellencie vpon these conditions following: whereunto his Excellencie did the rather yéelde, because he had intelligence that there was a great force of the Enemie gathered together about Gelder and Vendlow out of the Garrisons of the townes and countries adioyning, with sortie companies of Italians, who had resolued to hazard their fortunes, to raise the siedge, and to succor the towne.

Articles agreed vpon betweene the Right honorable Earle *Mauriſe*, and *Don Lewes Ferdinandus Affricano*, gouernor of the Towne of Berke, for the ſurrendering of the ſaid Towne, into the poſſeſſions of the *Lordes the States of the vnited* Prouinces.

1.

Firſt his excellencie accordeth and granteth vnto the Gouernor of Berck, that as well himſelfe as all the reſt of his men of warre both footemen & horſemen and alſo all ſuch as haue ſerued on the *Rine* in the ſhips, and veſſells of warre together, with the Captains and officers, without exception of any perſon whatſoeuer, ſhall and may freely depart the Towne, with their Antiants & Banners diſplaied, with

with their weapons and armor, their fire in their cocks, bullets in their mouthes, and their Drums ſounding, carrying with them their wiues and family, with bag and baggage, waggons and horſes: and with all other things belonging vnto them, without ſearching of any perſon whatſoeuer notwithſtanding any fault before committed, and namely the perſon of *Iohn Peterſon Thas.*

2.

That the Gouernor may take with him two field peeces ſuch as his Excellencie ſhall appoint with two barells of powder and 50 ſhot.

3.

That his Excellencie ſhal cauſe 200. Wagons to be deliuered vnto the ſaid Gouernor fit for ſeruice & to carry away the ſick, hurt, and all their bagge and baggage vnto the Towne of *Gelder*, and ſhall giue ſafe conduct for the men of warre & their baggage, vnto *Maſtrict*, And if it ſhall ſo fall out that any of the ſicke or wounded ſhalbe found vnable to trauell or to bee carried out of the Towne for the preſent time, it ſhall be lawfull for all ſuch to remaine in the Towne vntill ſuch time as they ſhall be cured and healed, and afterwarde departe with free paſporte of the Gouernour which ſhall bee by his Excellencie there appointed.

4. That

4.

That Maiſter *Euart Van Ens* may freely without empeachment depart the Towne with his wife and children: and carry away all his papers, accompts, goods, and moueables whatſoeuer, The like ſhall bee granted vnto the Councelor *Weſtendrop*, *Nicholas Van Houe* and others, the receiuers of rents and contributions with all their papers and accompts, bagge and baggage as is before conditioned; The like alſo ſhall be granted vnto *Goeſwyn Van Manem* the cuſtomer and his vnder officers, vnto all which his excellencie ſhall giue free paſport particularly, to depart either by land or by water as they themſelues ſhall thinke beſt and fitteſt for them, the like paſport ſhall alſo begiuen vnto all commiſſioners and other Officers which are in the pay of the king of Spaine, or of the Archduke *Albertus*, without any kinde of exception, detention, or pretext whatſoeuer for any kinde of offence in any ſort.

5.

The Gouernor ſhall pay vnto the Maieſtrate and townſemen all ſuch depts as he hath made in the towne in the time of the ſiege, with the money and goods of his highnes, proceeding of ſuch priſes, forfaitures, and confiſcations which are found contrary to the edict on the Riuer of *Ryne*.

6. That

6.

That the Gouernor ſhall ſend for all ſuch from whom their ſheep and kine haue been taken before the ſiedge, to the end he may by writing giue them aſſignation for payment by vertue whereof they may demaund, ſatiſfaction of the Archducke and Dutches, for as much as the ſame was done for their ſeruice.

7.

That the charges of the priſoners by reaſon of the contributions ſhall be preſently paid, according to the agreement made with the Admirant of Arrgon and confirmed by his highneſſe.

8.

That the Receiuer *Iohn De Brun*, may freelye, and without empeachment, depart the Towne, carrying with him all his accounts, goods, and baggage: conditionally, that he giue a coppie of the remainder of the Incommings, vpon the accompt of *Zutphin*, and the Countrey of *Ouer-Yſſel*.

9.

That all the Horſes taken by the aſiedged, eyther

from this part, or any other, during the time of this siedge, shall be bought againe euery Horse at twentie pound price.

10.

That all Victualers and Marchants which follow the Campe and men of warre of the King, or of his Highnesse, may remaine within the towne, vntill such time as they haue sould their goods and Marchandizes, and afterwardes depart with the Gouernors Pasport.

11.

That all such towne dwellers as will departe the towne and dwell elsewhere, shall haue libertie to sell their goods & housen, within the time of six months.

12.

That all Ecclesiasticall persons shall haue free libertie to depart, and care shall bee had for the Nuns and other religious persons.

13.

All men of warre which are prisoners on eyther side shall be set at libertie, paying their charges.

This

THis was agreed in the Campe before *Berke* on both ſides, the 30. day of Iuly 1601. after their account. And 1. day of Auguſt the enimy departed out of the Towne with 1300. ſound men, and 100. Marriners, and betweene 5. and 600. ſicke and wounded: the Gouernor and others confeſſed they had loſt in the time of this ſiege aboue 1000. Soldiers, God be praiſed for this great victoty, & proſper the proceedings of his Excellencie for his glories ſake, and for the profit of his church. Amen.

FINIS.